

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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**PRAYING AS A PARISH
FOR LENT**
(You can still sign up!)

February 14, 2016

The First Sunday in Lent



Dear Friends,

As you know, Grace Church occupies the corner of Broadway and 10th Street. With three lots facing Broadway and essentially the entire block between Broadway and 4th

Avenue, we have a lot of fence to maintain. Most of it is landmarked wrought iron that was designed in the 19th century not only to be attractive, but also to discourage people from climbing into the yard. From time to time people will lock their bicycles to the fence, and what to do about it always presents us with a dilemma. On the one hand, the bike locks scratch the paint and increase maintenance. Also a certain level of "broken window policing" is necessary to prevent the entire run of fence from being a tangle of locked bikes. On the other hand, everyone on staff has other things to do, and usually by the time we decide to do something about an unwanted bike locked to the fence, the owner has come back for it and pedaled away.

Not always. Last Friday someone locked a bike to the northern-most gate. Throughout the afternoon I passed by several times hoping that someone would retrieve it. By Friday night the bike was still there, and there it remained all day Saturday. On Sunday afternoon I noticed that other cyclists were locking their bikes near it, so it was time to take action. I went out to the bike with Johnson, one of our maintenance staff, and we saw that while the bike itself was not worth much, the device attaching it to the fence was a kryptonite u-lock that retails for



Thinking about a Lenten spiritual discipline? Want to engage in a practice of daily prayer but not sure where to start? Consider taking two minutes out of every day to pray using a brief, daily devotional guide written by Grace Church parishioners for each other and delivered daily (Mon-Sat) to your e-mail inbox. Sign up today by clicking [HERE](#). Questions? [E-mail Stephen Holton](#).

FEB 14 – HOME COOKED MEAL FOR NYC RESCUE MISSION
A few more volunteers are needed!

THIS Sunday, Feb 14th we will serve a meal of pot roasts and cupcakes to hundreds of guests at the NYC Rescue Mission. We now have 30 potroasts – thank you!! We need just a few more cupcakes and some folks to help serve the meal at the mission. Please join us!

more than \$100. The lock was far more valuable than the bike itself, and getting it off the fence was going to be quite a job. It didn't happen until Monday, and it took two of our maintenance guys with a power saw and a special blade nearly 30 minutes to cut through the lock and remove the bike from the fence.

A few days later it was Ash Wednesday, and we began the season of Lent with the mark of ashes on our foreheads. The ashes are a sign of our mortality and penitence. They remind us that sin attaches itself to us, and sometimes no matter how hard we try, we can't get it off. Sin to the human condition is like the bike on the church fence. Perhaps for a while we look the other way, we hope it resolves itself and doesn't proliferate. But then we realize that action is required. What shall we do? Sometimes not even all the power tools we have at our disposal are able to do the job. The Christian faith is not about human strength and might. Rather, it is about the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. If Lent brings you to the place where you realize that it is only the power of God that truly sets us free, then you will have kept a holy season.

Welcome to Lent. See you in church.

[The Reverend J. Donald Waring](#)
 Rector

This Sunday

The First Sunday in Lent

9 a.m. A Penitential Order & Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. Gretchen S. Ratterree
 Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. A Penitential Order & Morning Prayer

Sermon: The Rev. Gretchen S. Ratterree
 Music: The Adult Choir

You may sign up online [here](#)
or by e-mailing [Lillie Chance](#).

Confirmations & Receptions, May 22. Sign up, or inquire, now for classes in March!

CONFIRMATION FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS will take place on Sunday, May 22, the day of the Bishop's visit. **All who desire to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church are welcome.**

Classes are planned for early March.

To sign up for youth classes (7th-12th grade), contact [the Rev. Chase Danford](#). To enquire about adult classes, contact [the Rev. Stephen Holton](#). **Questions about what it means to be "Confirmed" or "Received?"** You are most welcome to contact Frs. Chase or Stephen with your questions!
Please respond today!

Please pray for...

6 p.m. A Penitential Order & Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry
Sermon: The Rev. Mary Cat Young
Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

LITURGICAL CHANGES FOR LENT – Our Sunday worship takes on a different tone for these next five weeks of Lent. We will begin each service with a Penitential Order, which includes a recitation of the 10-Commandments. The word "Alleluia" is omitted from all hymns, versicles, and responses, and you will see no flowers on the altar. The goal of the scarcity is to highlight the abundant life that will be ours to claim at Easter.

FEB 14-MAR 13 – GOD BREAKS IN! THE SUNDAY FORUM @10 AM – During Lent many of us feel an urgency to make a deeper connection with God. We may embark on Lenten disciplines: giving things up, taking things on, etc. At the end of Lent we may be a few pounds slimmer, but perhaps no closer to God. Yet God seems to break into our lives according to no script or recipe that we can follow. Speakers for this Lenten series will draw on their own experience—whether through the lens of art or literature, work or leisure, joy or sorrow, to describe those times when they feel that God has been trying to get their attention. Sundays in Lent: Feb 14, 21, 28, March 6, 13. *Today, 2/14, the Rev. Chase Danford will lead a discussion of the popular film *Chocolat* (2000). Clips will be shown, and the full movie is available through online streaming services.*

NEWCOMERS' CLASSES –Members of the clergy speak, and answer questions, about Christianity, the Episcopal Church, and what it's like to be a member of Grace Church. A light lunch will be



those who suffer

Lori Interlicchio
 Alana Duran
 Julie Harvey
 Sekou and Stacy Andrews
 Elsie Lewis
 Bill Nave
 Greg Gillies
 Josephine Ferraiuolo
 Howard Small
 Trish Lawrence
 Paul Tillotson

and those who have died.

In thanksgiving for all the blessings of this life...

served. Sundays, Feb 14 and 21, from 12:45 – 1:45 pm in the Reception Room. *Additional Newcomer classes will be held in April.*

Coming Soon

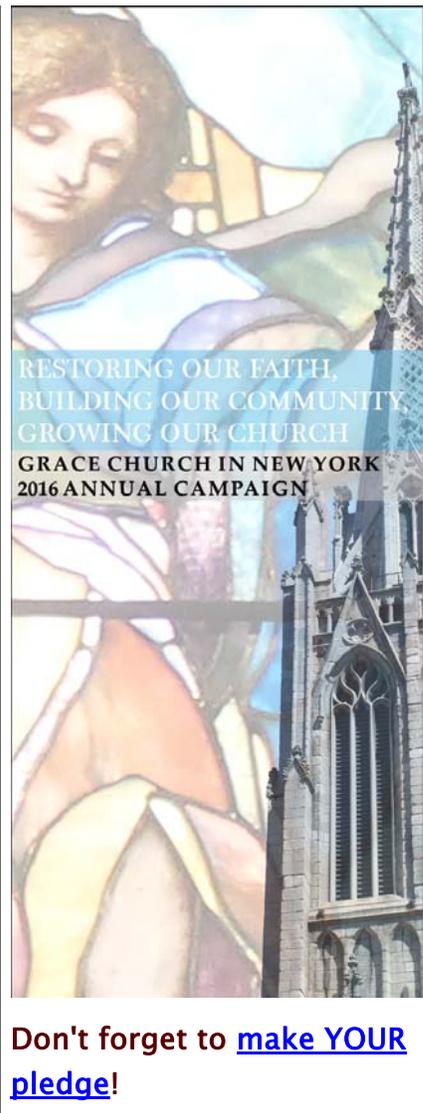
FEB 21 – GOD BREAKS IN: THE FAITH OF TEENS – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10 AM –We will examine adolescent experiences of faith as depicted in literature and pop culture, and how those activities shape the developing teen identity. *Speaker: Chris Shoemaker, parishioner and past president of the Young Adult Library Services Association.*

FEB 21 – ACOLYTE MEETING & TRAINING –The clergy will lead a training for new and current acolytes on Sunday, Feb. 21 after the 11 am service (approx. 12:30–1 pm). All current acolytes are asked to attend. Please join us if you're in you're in 4th grade and up and might like to carry a torch, light the candles, serve at the altar, or even carry the cross! Contact the Rev. Chase Danford [here](#) with any questions.

FEB 25 – NEWCOMERS' WELCOME EVENT– All Grace Newcomers are invited to join us for light refreshments and a special tour of the church by the Rector, Thursday, Feb 25 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM in the Reception Room. *RSVP to James Romanik [here](#). We're looking forward to seeing you there!*

FEB 27 – HABITAT FOR HUMANITY/GRACE CHURCH BUILD DAYS – JOIN US! Grace Church is overjoyed to be partnering with Habitat for Humanity to rehabilitate a condemned house in Laurelton, Queens, for a family in need. Next build day is Sat, Feb 27. Our Feb 10 and 20 build day spots filled up fast, so don't delay! Visit our [Outreach page](#) to learn more and to sign up.

MAR 2, 9, 16 –SACRED CONVERSATION ON RACE AND JUSTICE: A 20's and 30's–ish Lenten Book Study. Grace Church invites young professionals and



students (ages 18–45) from around NYC to a discussion series on Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. We will meet in the Reception Room from 7 to 8:30 pm to discuss the book and whether the church might be called to respond to the issues raised. We hope you'll be able to join us for all three evenings, but you're welcome to come as you can. Note that dinner will be provided on March 2; *RSVP to the Rev. Chase Danford [here](#).*

OUTREACH

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING – THANK YOU to everyone who participated last Sunday. A total of \$569 was raised to support Hope for Our Neighbors in Need, the food pantry at Church of the Village (13th St and 7th Ave). Way to go, team!

FEB 20 – DON'T WALK BY is an annual outreach in New York City in which volunteers walk through the streets of Manhattan on a search and rescue mission for the homeless. Team Grace Church will participate on Saturday, 2/20, from 1:30–8 pm. Please join! You may register [here](#) (click Feb 20–Downtown, select "Street Engagement Volunteer" click "register" and fill out the form. For name of team, put "Mike Watson," and name of church "Grace Episcopal Manhattan.") Questions, contact Mike [here](#) or 646–234–5799. *Registration deadline 2/15/16.*

FEB 27 – HABITAT FOR HUMANITY/GRACE CHURCH BUILD DAYS – JOIN US! Details above under "Coming Soon."

*To find service information,
you may visit www.gracechurchnyc.org, updated weekly.*

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